

To the Flock of God every where gathered out of the Worlds Wayes, Worships, and false Separations, into the Way of Truth, Worship of the Spirit, and its pure guidance, where true Satisfaction and Peace is witnessed, that you all may keep there; for there is your Rest for ever, and your Safety in time of your trouble; that none may gad or go astray out of the Way of Truth for the love of any thing: for such shall meet with Tribulation, Anguish and Wrath from the Lord God Almighty.

Dear Friends, Who are gathered into the Life of GOD and Seed Immortal, which was before the seed of the Adulterer and power of Darkness and Death was, and are planted a Noble Vine, an holy and right Seed, in that grow, spread forth your Roots and flourish, that you may be fruitful to God; and stand out of the seed of the Adulterer, and keep over the Serpent's windings, and turnings, and subtilty; and that Serpent, and them in it, that would draw you forth into the World, its Inventions, Customs and Traditions, or to an Oneness with them; for you cannot please nor serve two Masters, you must hate the one and love the other, and cleave to the one and despise the other: Therefore, Dear Friends all, keep in the right Seed, Nature and Ground, and grow in that over the World and perishing things, and you will all be pleasant Plants, and the Issues of Life and fresh showers of the Love of God you will plentifully feel, and dwell

dwell in the invisible Power of God, out of all visible things,
 out of the will of the flesh, or the will of man in the pride
 of life; for by that, Death comes over, and Darkness co-
 vers, and gets head and mastery, and so comes to rule and
 bear sway. O let not your minds go after the World, its
 flesh-pots, or any thing you have forsaken, and left behind
 you for Truths sake, never let that come into your remem-
 brance again so as to lust after it, but press forwards in fol-
 lowing the Lord. O look not back on the fading glory
 of any visible or mutable thing, but minde the Lord that
 brought you out of the house of bondage, and *Aegypts*
 darkness, and hath safely led you on all along, and com-
 fortably watched over you, as a Shepherd over his flock;
Dear Friends, walk on in the sence of the Lord's Power
 and precious Presence with you in all your undertakings,
 that in the living Faith you all may stand fast; and quit
 your selves from every thing that would entangle you, or
 draw you aside again into the Corruptibles, that so in the
 Faith all may be given up, and you made truly willing to
 suffer the loss of all: Let nothing be kept back or thought
 too dear or near to be parted with, that's visible and perish-
 ing, what-ever it be, Husband, Wife, Children, Gold, Sil-
 ver, Lands, or full Trading and Employments, value them
 not, nor love them more than the Truth; for if any so do,
 they will not be found worthy of the Truth, but the *Truth*
 shall be given to them that are more worthy of it, and
 whose delight is to serve it and honour it: So what-ever
 stands in your way, or at any time would hinder you from
 running the Race that is set before you; or, what-ever be-
 sets any of you, or burthens the Just in you, cast it from
 you, and lay it aside, and freely part with it; for they are
 worthy of the Truth, and knows most how to prize it, that
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have laid down all for it; such come to the Everlasting Inheritance which fades not away; and by the laying down of their own Life, thereby come to save it. But many come to lose the Life, because they were never truly willing to lay down, deny, and forsake that, which in the evil nature and ground they have a life in, and yeeld unto that which is evil, and work offence against God, shunning the Crosse of Christ, wherein the Power of God is manifested unto all that obey him; for the crucifying and slaying of that which is contrary to God, which the Prince of Darknes works, and would keep all people in, to their loss and ruine. But, *Dear Friends*, be willing to lay down all, and part with that life which any have in any thing that will perish and come to an end, wherein it works against the Truth, and hinders its growth and prosperity, or the preservation and perseverance in it. O lay all down at the feet of the Lamb, who prevails and shall have the Victory, and stand with the pure Lamb against, and keep over all Deceit and Hypocrisie in them that would pervert the way of Truth, and draw you aside from your first Love, and stedfastness to God and his People, into bitterness and unstability of mind and spirit, and would swell you up in vain conceits, prejudice and evil surmising, and that would labour to beget any of you into an amity with the Professions of the World, who are out of the Seed and Life of God, wherein the true Church-Unity stood, and ever stands over them all who are of the false Church and Mother of Harlots, and over all their feigned shews and hypocritical pretences of Love and Amity; that will speak fair, and make a fair shew, but within full of rottenness, death, darknes, evil thoughts and Murders, which proceed out of their evil hearts, and *they cannot cease from sin*, but make a mock at it, and plead for it, that they might have:

have it for term of life, and cannot be free till they come at the Grave, as though the Grave would recover them, and free them from their sins; which is altogether incredible, and but a formed imagined thing: therefore *Friends*, keep out of the Worlds spirit, principles, and dark groundless persuasions; keep clear out of them, and tamper not with their dead principles, persuasions, vain traditions, carnal ordinances, forms which they have invented; nor their *Worships* which profit not, nor make the comers thereunto perfect; but keep clear out of them all, in That wherein you have acceptance with God, and his pure Presence apparently hath been manifested in, for the quickning, comforting, and refreshing of you in all your tryals and sufferings, which you have passed through, and been acquainted with, for the tryal of your Faith in this day of *Jacobs* troubles, wherein the Lord hath been sifting the house of *Israel*, and is purging away the filth of the daughter of *Sion*, and arraying her with the Beautiful Garments and comely Ornaments, wherein she shines forth in the excellent Glory and Comeliness which the Lord hath put upon her: And this is she that sometimes sate as forsaken, and few minded to seek after her, but now is become *a City sought up, and not forsaken, and is become the Delight and Ransomed of the Lord, that is returned out of Babylon and Egypt with Songs of Deliverance.* And undoubtedly the Lord will wound and cut off the stout-hearted for your sakes, and all they that are incensed against you shall be ashamed, and they that strive with you shall perish; and the Lord will be with you, and go before you that remain steadfast and constant in the love of *his Truth and People*, if you travel on, not turning to the right-hand or to the left, nor gad abroad to change your way: for if any forsake the Lord, who is *the Way*, or his Work and Testi-

Testimony, in meeting together with the Saints & Servants of God, that feel his presence with them; how should they expect but the Lord should leave them, and slight them that slight his Work and Testimony, which so signally he hath owned and led us on in? wherein also we have witnessed an overcoming of Sin and the Devils works, as the Children of the Lord did in the Generations past; I say, how should such but grow cold, dry and barren, and lose their favour, and so be good for nothing but to be trodden under foot of men, who stumble at, and slight, and cause others to stumble at and slight the manifest Requirings of God, to meet together to speak of the things of his Kingdom, to wait upon and worship him, as our former manner was? So, dear *Friends*, abide in the Seed which keeps true, single, constant and unmovable, alwayes abounding in the unfeigned Love of God, that his Work may prosper in you, and you be kept upright to the Lord, rejecting every evil way and spirit which gathers not into that which is wholsom and sound, which you have heard from the beginning, and been assured of by manifold Testimonies from Heaven, which God's Witness in you hath answered to, that have believed and obeyed from your hearts what was delivered unto you, and are preserved in the same Love, Life and heavenly Unity of the One Spirit, by which all the Plants of God were quickened, and kept fresh and green through sundry storms and tempests which they have past through and been exercised in, both inwardly and outwardly. O dear *Friends*, shut out the Wicked-One, and lend not an ear to his Allurements, nor open an eye to look out at the Glory of this World, which in the Invisible you may see passing away very swiftly: and the Glory of all flesh God is staining, and through all his Judgments revealed,

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manifesting the emptines and uncertainty of all things under the Sun. So, *dear Friends*, feel dominion over all that which is uncertain and fading away, and stand in the Dread of God over all Changeables, and them that are subject to change their way, and that run out in high-mindedness, self-seeking, feigned-flatteries with the tongue, when their hearts are not with you; And be all in Reality what you profess in words, and let Truth guide you in all things; and beware of strengthening the Bad in one another: when you at any time see one another, let your words be few and savoury, seasoned with Salt, that *they may administer Grace to the hearers*; and covet the wholsomest words and the best gifts, and follow the things that make for Peace, as much as in you lieth; and *provoke one another to Love and to good works*: And if any be a Talker, or a Busy-body, or a false Accuser, or a Backbiter, or a Slanderer, going about prating of things they ought not, warn such unruly spirits, and withdraw from them, that they may be ashamed; that they may be reprov'd sharply, and exhorted to mind their own business, still desiring that they might come to the acknowledgment of their Sins, and to Repentance for them, and forsake them.

So, *dear Friends*, the God of all Grace establish you, and keep you in that which works for God, and which is able to present you all spotless and unblamable in Holiness; for truly God (through his abundant mercy and kindness) hath extended Life to us that were dead, and by his Power hath raised the Dead, and opened the Graves, and you that are now come forth out of the graves of sin and iniquity, that sometime dwelt in the dust, can now sing, being awakened out of the sleep of Death, wherein the World and all the false gatherings lie, so rejoyce and triumph over Death,
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and that which would draw into Death & Darkneſs again; and prize the Truth, in which Life and Salvation is found and witneſſed; O turn not from it, for if any one turn from it, condemnation and miſery ſhall come upon them, which they ſhall not be able to eſcape whitherſoever they run, to hide themſelves, or to ſave their lives, they ſhall loſe them, the Lord will find them out, and will bring torment and diſtreſs upon them, morning by morning they ſhall have no reſt nor peace, all joy ſhall be taken from them, when the Faithful come to rejoyce and clap their hands for joy; after the days of their Mourning be over, then ſhall ſorrow and ſadneſs, mourning and bitter lamentations come upon all that are not faithful to the Lord in their day. Therefore, *dear Friends*, you that know the Truth, prize it more and more, be faithful to its requirings, and value it more than all viſible things; prize nor eſteem any thing, though never ſo delightful or profitable, as the *Truth*, and the Truth will free you from all that which would hurt, and keep you over all to the Glory of God; keep it, and it will be your life, it will preſerve you and be a Sanctuary of ſafety for you when the ſcourge of the Almighty paſſeth through the Land with greater ſeverity to deſtroy and cut off its Inhabitants than yet hath been known in our generation. Oh! Bleſſed are you that have a habitation & dwell in the Truth, the *infallible way to God*, you need not look for another; for there is no other unto God but *Chriſt*, whom we have believed in, who is *the Way, the Truth and the Life*, in whom I remain, your Brother and Companion in Sufferings, Exerciſes and Tribulations for the Gospels ſake, which is the Power of God.

JAMES PARK.

Written near Colcheſter in Eſſex
the 5th of the 8th mon. 1666.

